

Engineering History Australia National Engineering Oral History Program

G.B (Bruce) Gore (1927-) Acoustical Engineer

Birth and Family: Bruce was born on 21st February 1927 at Bondi Road, Waverley. He had one brother (b. 1939). Both parents originated from the Quirindi region. His maternal grandfather was the foreman of a large sheep station and his father was a policeman after returning for the first World War.

Schooling: Primary School – St Joseph’s School, Edgecliff – Intermediate Certificate 1941.

Secondary School – Marist Brothers High, Darlinghurst (2yrs) -Leaving Certificate obtained but did not matriculate into engineering because he did not complete Maths I & II.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (Communications and Electronics) 1961.

Master of Engineering Science (in Electrical Engineering) 1972.

Memberships: Founding Member – Australian Acoustical Society (c.1980).

Australian Standards Committee on performance of hearing aids, loop systems, hi-fidelity equipment. (from 1972/3).

NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) (since late 1970’s).

Awards: Appointed “Technical Expert” in field of ‘Metrology and Calibration’.

Work History: Bruce began playing musical instruments at the age of twelve, leading to his first job with Bondi Surf Life Saving Club where he played drums, base and vibraphone. He also undertook a laboratory position with New South Wales Forestry Commission while he went to Sydney Technical College, qualifying as a Wood Technologist.

His musical career continued as he completed an engineering draft course and learnt about radios and electronics at a friend’s radio shop in Double Bay. He married in 1949 and moved to Katoomba where he joined the Railways Department. He expressed interest in working for the Postmaster General’s Department (PMG) and for two weeks of 1951 he was accepted into the telecommunications course at PMG Annandale Training School. They employed him in Lithgow, where he had to travel to daily. Through PMG he worked as a Technician’s Assistant, Acting Senior Technician at the shale oil workings at Glen Davis, then as he had to move to Sydney to enroll in a Radio Engineering course at Sydney College, his request for transfer led to him working at City East Exchange. Bruce finished his one year course, thus allowing him to matriculate to university.

Bruce enrolled in the second year of his Radio Engineering course and as the year was almost completed, the course he desired was readvertised. He was accepted and was also appointed to Clerical Assistant, then Trainee Engineer at PMG. (he gained this position despite 34 appeals against his appointment.)

Bruce switched from his Radio Diploma course to a full time University Engineering Degree which was a four year course at the University of New South Wales. After graduation (1961) he was appointed to the Nepean division for two weeks, then transferred to the Daley Street exchange.

Led by his musical and acoustic interests Bruce joined to Commonwealth Acoustic Lab (CAL, later NAL). CAL advertised a Engineering class II position which he took in January 1963. He and a supervising technician did much of the work for ELSA (Extended Local Service Area) Test Network.. Gore and his immediate boss were the only two engineers working for the Department of Health. He worked on noise standards and levels for naval ships, acting as a consultant and recommending changes.

In 1960 he was promoted to a senior Physicist (class III) which he reclassified in 1972 to Engineer class III. He also graduated in 1972 with his Master of Engineering Science (Communications and Electronics) from the University of New South Wales. In 1978 he was appointed RAAF Reserve as Squadron Leader Consultant on noise, where he was the only acoustic consultant in the entire armed forces.

Bruce was promoted to (Principal) Engineer class IV, in charge of National Acoustic Laboratories (NAL). In 1985/6 Bruce implemented changes to satisfy the government demand for commercialization (he also implemented changes saving NAL over \$3mil over five years.) His aim with the production of hearing aids, in which he was very involved, was high efficiency and low cost. In 1987 he represented Australia in Kuala Lumpur at the World Health Organisation's conference on noise issues and problems in the "East." He retired from NAL in 1992 but continues to do some field and consultative work.